



BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, March 20, 2008

The meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at 3:00 p.m., at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Erminia Ramirez
Jim Holley **(ABS)**
Ronald L. Griffin
Mohamed Okdie **(ABS)**
Willie Hampton

Department Personnel Present

AC Robert Dunlap
AC Ralph Godbee
2nd DC John Clark
Cmdr. Gail Wilson-Turner
Cmdr. Jan Johnson
Cmdr. Benjamin Lee
Cmdr. James Suchoski
Lt. Charles Wilson
Lt. Steve Carlin
Lt. Sherri Oliver
Lt. Darwin Roche
Lt. Pastella Williams
Lt. Anthony Topp
Lt. Donna Jarvis
Sgt. Stephanie Smith
Sgt. Brian Harris
Sgt. Dwight Snodgrass
Sgt. Steve Miller
PO Sophia Nelms

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director (**ABS**)
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Lawana Ducker, Personnel Director
Arnold Sheard, Chief Investigator
P.O. Kent Cooper

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Scott

RECORDERS

Terence Bell
Robert Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ramirez called the meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:20 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **Thursday, March 20, 2008**

MOTION: **Comm. Hampton** made the motion to approve the Agenda.

SECOND: **Comm. Griffin** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Thursday, March 13, 2008**

MOTION: Comm. Hampton made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: Comm. Griffin seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. BOPC OFFICER'S REPORT

1. CHAIRPERSON

2. SECRETARY REPORT

SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY OF POLICE OFFICER GARY STEELE, BADGE 4279, ASSIGNED TO THE NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT

On March 4, 2008, Force Investigation was notified of an incident involving Police Officer Gary Steele, Badge 4279.

Prior to March 4, 2008, the Complainant stated that during the six months that she had been dating Police Officer Steele, she noticed that he had a violent temper and sudden outbursts of anger, which scared her. Therefore, she chose to terminate the relationship.

On March 4, 2008, the Complainant returned home and found Officer Steele moving his belongings from her basement and garage. While moving his belongings, Officer Steele placed her house key and garage door opener on the kitchen counter and began swearing. When the Complainant told him to leave, he proceeded into the garage and grabbed a bat from the garage and started swinging. The Complainant then moved towards the interior door of the house after repeatedly telling Officer Steele to leave. Officer Steele walked toward his car in the driveway and the Complainant closed the automatic garage door behind him and closed the interior door. Officer Steele re-entered the garage using the keypad, grabbed the bat, and hit the Complainant on her right thigh bringing her to her knees. Officer Steele then picked up the Complainant by her throat, dragged her toward the interior door, and smashed her head through the garage wall. He then choked her and pushed her through the door onto her back. Officer Steele then got on top of her, held her by her throat, and

repeatedly pushed her head into the floor. Officer Steele drew his revolver and fired three shots into the floor next to the Complainant's head. He placed the gun to her head and stated, "I will kill you. Do you hear me Kim? I will kill you." Officer Steele then told the Complainant to open her mouth so that he could blow her "fucking brains out." Officer Steele threw his gun across the room and gave her \$200.00 for a new cell phone. Officer Steele then got off of her, retrieved his gun, and left the scene.

On that same day, the Canton Police Department dispatched a shots fired police run to the Complainant's address. The dispatcher also broadcasted that the suspect was an off-duty Detroit police officer and was driving a black Pontiac Grand Prix.

Members of the Canton Police Department conducted a traffic stop on the Grand Prix. Officer Steele was ordered out of his car and onto the ground. He was placed in custody and escorted to the scout car. A .38 caliber revolver was found in a holster on Officer Steele's right hip. When Officer Steele was asked if he had fired any shots at the house, he responded by saying, "Yes, it was a stupid thing to do." The Canton Police Department recovered the following firearms from the trunk of Officer Steele's vehicle and placed them on hold "Safe Keeping:"

One 7mm rifle
One .22 caliber rifle
One Marlin rifle
One 12-gauge shotgun

On March 5, 2008, Lieutenant Lynda Hicks, badge L-12, and Sergeant Diaz Graves, badge S-28, both assigned to the Northwestern District, responded to the Canton Police Department and suspended Officer Steele.

On March 5, 2008, Detective Michael Wells, of the Canton Police Department, obtained a seven count felony warrant against Officer Steele charging him with the following:

Count 1.	Torture
Count 2.	Assault with Intent to Commit Murder
Count 3.	Assault with Intent to do Great Bodily Harm less than Murder
Count 4.	Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (Felonious Assault)
Count 5.	Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (Felonious Assault)
Count 6.	Weapons-Firearms-Discharge in or at a building
Count 7.	Weapons-Felony Firearm

On March 6, 2008, Officer Steele was arraigned on the aforementioned charges before Judge Michael Gerou, of the 35th District Court. Officer Steele was given a bond of \$5,000,000.00 / 10%. His exam was scheduled for March 17, 2008 and adjourned to April 11, 2008.

Based on the above circumstances, it is recommended that Police Officer Steele be charged with, but not limited to, the following violation of the Detroit Police Department Rules and Regulations:

CHARGE: CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER, CONTRARY TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS; THIS BEING IN VIOLATION OF THE 2003 DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT MANUAL SERIES 100, DIRECTIVE 102.3 – 7.9, CONDUCT UNPROFESSIONAL, COMMAND 1.

Due to the seriousness of the conduct, I am requesting your concurrence with the suspension of Officer Steele without pay, effective March 20, 2008.

Unless **contravened** by this Board the suspension without pay shall stand.

There were no contraventions.

OFFICE CLOSING

The Board of Police Commissioners' Office and the Office of the Chief Investigator will be CLOSED on the following date:

- Friday, March 21st, in observance of Good Friday.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
2008 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	9	311	71% Decrease
2007 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	31	341	9% Decrease

- The Office of the Chief Investigator has a total of 1,363 active investigations, of which 295 of those are for 2008.

TOTAL WEEKLY ALLEGATIONS & COMMAND

Total	COMMAND	ALLEGATIONS									Total
CCR	W/E 03/20/08	Arrest	Demeanor	Force	Harassment	Entry	Procedure	Property	Search	Service	Allegations
1	CENTRAL	1					1				2
3	EASTERN		3				2				5
2	NORTHEASTERN	1		1			1				3
1	NORTHWESTERN			1			1				2
1	Unknown Command						1				1
1	WESTERN						1				1
9		2	3	2			7				14

5. PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF POLICE

March 20, 2008

Volume 4, Issue 12

Detroit Police Department

Report to the Board of Police Commissioners



Special Points of Interest:

• Next meeting:

Thursday, March 27, 2008

@ 3:00 P.M.

Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien Room 328-A
Detroit, Michigan 48226

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“Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships”

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Narcotics/Gang Enforcement

During the period of March 10, 2008 through March 16, 2008, **Narcotics/Gang Enforcement executed 35 search warrants and 19 street enforcement actions** within the boundaries of the city of Detroit resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- 34 Felony arrests
- 51 Misdemeanor arrests
- 3 Juveniles

Confiscated:

- 354.20 grams of cocaine, 43.7 grams of heroin, 17,248.15 grams of marijuana, and 259 pills, with a total street value of \$291,922.60.
- **\$ 17,590.00** in U.S. Currency
- 12 Handguns

Domestic Violence

On March 12th, officers of the Southwestern District responded to an “Assault & Battery” in the 9000 block of Monica, which resulted in an arrest and the recovery of a weapon. *The subsequent investigation conducted by members of Domestic Violence resulted in the subject being charged with “Felony Assault”, “Domestic Violence”, and “Habitual 2nd”.*

Engaging the Community

ATTENTION

Citizens wishing to make a police report may do so at the District stations in the city of Detroit. Citizens may also utilize the following District Sub-Stations to make reports.

		<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Central District	2	2151 E. Jefferson	24 Hours	596-6400
Eastern District	2	7737 Kercheval	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.	628-2121
		19810 Grand River	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	935-5322
		13530 Lesure	8 a.m. to 11 p.m.	596-5300
Northeastern District	2	12000 Livernois	24 Hours	237-2555

March 20, 2008

Police / Community Intervention

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Eastern District

On March 12th, a subject was arrested in connection with a "Home Invasion II" that occurred in the 11000 block of Lakepointe. *The investigation and evidence collected at the scene revealed that the subject was responsible for several other Home Invasions, which led to the closure of three additional cases.*

Northeastern District

On March 12th, officers of the Northeastern District were flagged down in the area of Fenelon and Luce by a person who had just been robbed. Due to the officers quick actions, three subjects were arrested. *The subjects were charged with a combined total of seven (7) counts of "Armed Robbery", five (5) counts of a "Carrying a Concealed Weapon", and five (5) counts of "Felony Firearm." A handgun and items taken during the robbery were recovered.*

Western District

On March 16th, officers responded to the 4000 block of West McNichols, where they received information on a wanted subject and vehicle used in a recent robbery. Shortly after receiving the information, the officers observed the wanted vehicle and subject enter a gas station in the area. *The subject was quickly arrested and later charged with "Armed Robbery".*



Central District

On March 14th, officers of the Central District responded to the 1300 block of Brush on a "Felonious Assault". Upon their arrival, the officers were met by two complainants who alleged that a parking lot attendant accused them of not paying for parking, then produced a handgun. *The subject was arrested and later charged with (2) counts of Felonious Assault (1) count of Felony Firearm.*

Northwestern District

On March 15th, officers of the Northwestern District responded to the 12000 block of Penrod on a report of a "Breaking & Entering-Residence". The homeowner, who observed the subject attempt to break into the house, provided the officers with a description of the subject. The officers conducted a search and apprehended in the nearby area. *The subject was charged with "Home Invasion 1st Degree" and "Possession of Marijuana."*

AC Godbee stated he wanted to commend the men and women of the department for the excellent work they are doing. He introduced 2nd DC Clark of Fiscal Management.

Chairperson Ramirez stated before 2nd DC Clark speaks, Comm. Griffin has a question.

Comm. Griffin asked for confirmation of the suspension without pay for Officer Steele and its effective date of March 20. He then asked why the suspension date is not retroactive.

AC Godbee stated the Chief of Police by orders can't suspend without pay, it has to be in concurrence with the Board of Police Commissioners

Atty. Hooks stated that isn't what he is asking. According to the write up, he (the officer) was suspended on March 5, 2008, and that would be a suspension with pay. His inquiry is why this suspension without pay isn't retroactive to March 5th.

AC Godbee asked Cmdr. Wilson-Turner if she could speak on that issue.

Cmdr. Wilson-Turner stated it has always been past practice that the suspension will be as of that Thursday of the meeting. They never go back to the suspended with pay date. But, beyond that she is not sure of the reason.

2nd DC Clark introduced Cmdr. Suchoski, and Lt. Carlin who will be presenting the presentation. He also mentioned that the department is in the process of building a new building that will house the Property Control and Crime Lab. The new facility will be built on Rosa Parks Blvd. and should be completed in 24 months.

AC Godbee stated the Chief had an opportunity to do a walk through of the Property Room and was very impressed with how well it has been maintained by Lt. Carlin and his staff.

Lt. Carlin introduced his staff and presented the presentation on Property Control with highlights on the evidence process, general and forfeiture accounts, and management and security.

SEE ATTACHMENT

Chairperson Ramirez asked how much money was deposited into the general funds account.

Lt. Carlin stated about \$15.6 million.

Chairperson Ramirez asked what year was that.

Lt. Carlin stated that's over the past five years.

Chairperson Ramirez asked how much goes to the police department.

Lt. Carlin stated none.

Chairperson Ramirez stated it all goes to the general fund.

Lt. Carlin stated Property Controls only deposits the money.

AC Godbee asked 2nd DC Clark if he could speak on the federal assets sharing.

2nd DC Clark stated the department has a balance of \$5 million in federal funds and \$8 million in state and local funds. The federal funds come from a partnership with the IRS (Internal Revenue Service). The state and local funds come from money that is seized from narcotics. Both funds are maintained by the police department and are used to support different operations.

Chairperson Ramirez stated those are the forfeiture funds.

2nd DC Clark stated that's correct.

Chairperson Ramirez asked are there any programs that deal with anything other than drugs.

2nd DC Clark stated yes.

Chairperson Ramirez stated the police department doesn't get any money that goes into the general fund.

2nd DC Clark stated when the budget is being prepared, there will be a revenue source for seizure funds for programs, for the police department and the prosecutor's office, to share funds for civil actions.

Comm. Griffin asked is there a process that the department uses to see if the weapons that you destroy were involved in a shooting.

Lt. Carlin stated the weapons are processed as they come into the property room. Guns that are coming from the investigative units are tagged, and guns from "buy back" programs are tagged.

Chairperson Ramirez asked to know what kind of tracking systems are in place.

Lt. Carlin stated they have the Incident Reporting System (IRS), which tracks the location and any changes that are made to the tags, such as when it was destroyed.

Chairperson Ramirez asked is this the tracking mechanism that the department has always used.

Lt. Carlin stated no, it was tracked in a ledger.

Chairperson Ramirez asked is the system you are using now doing the job.

Lt. Carlin stated the current system that was installed in 1993 has been updated by System Administrator, Bob Beaver. They are looking to use a web-based system in the future.

AC Godbee stated they are looking to be global by mapping all of our units with the assistance from (IT) Information Technology.

Chairperson Ramirez stated when you say global, if a gun was used in another State will you be able to track it.

Lt. Carlin stated all firearms that come into the department go to crime lab for identification testing.

Comm. Griffin asked is the property process part of the Consent Decree.

Lt. Carlin stated no.

Comm. Hampton asked what kind of items are to be destroyed that have no value.

Lt. Carlin stated crack pipes, rocks, bottles, clothes, and old shoes.

Chairperson Ramirez asked does Internal Affairs distinguish the difference between real narcotics and powder.

Lt. Carlin stated all narcotics go to the lab for testing.

Comm. Hampton asked what major changes and updates have been made under your watch as it relates to the Consent Decree.

Lt. Carlin stated since 2002, the property room has better security with cameras being installed and key card accessibility.

AC Godbee stated the cameras are so advanced that he, the Chief and AC Dunlap can view the property room from their desk top computers.

Comm. Griffin stated you mentioned the Consent Decree...were there some things you had to address as a result of it.

Lt. Carlin stated no, not with the property room.

AC Godbee stated prior to Lt. Carlin's tenure, narcotics were disappearing out of the property room. He thanked the lieutenant for a great job.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no standing committee reports.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Ramirez asked to know when the open house would take place for Central District.

AC Godbee stated it is in the final stage for everything to be signed off on the occupant permits. Once this is done, they will be announcing those dates.

Chairperson Ramirez stated hopefully this Board will be notified.

AC Godbee stated most certainly.

Chairperson Ramirez asked is the ordinance that City Council passed concerning texting and putting on makeup while driving being enforced.

AC Godbee stated the department hasn't had an opportunity to review it and to prepare an appropriate response so that the officers are aware of those enforcements.

Chairperson Ramirez asked when is it introduced to the community.

AC Godbee stated to keep it in perspective, the department didn't pass the ordinance but rather they just enforce it and they need to step up for that.

Chairperson Ramirez stated to do the advertising of it.

AC Godbee stated yes, and there are some members from City Council in the audience and they will be able to inform them.

Chairperson Ramirez stated the department still has to do its part.

AC Godbee stated he agrees.

Chairperson Ramirez stated to make sure you notify the Presidents of the Community Relations Council regarding the ordinance.

**1. GRANT: REQUEST PERMISSION TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF
LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has offered to donate six laptop computers and four printers to the Detroit Police Department's Northwestern and Eastern Districts. This equipment will be utilized exclusively by law enforcement personnel. **There is no cost to the City.**

I am requesting the Board's permission to accept this donation and seek approval of the Honorable City Council.

MOTION: **Comm. Hampton** made the motion to accept the Grant.

SECOND: **Chairperson Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Chairperson Ramirez asked are the computers new.

AC Godbee stated yes, they are.

Comm. Griffin asked how many.

AC Godbee stated he believes there are six.

Chairperson Ramirez asked will these replace the old ones.

AC Godbee stated no, these are additions to the ones they already have.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 27 2008, @3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

R. Scott stated he didn't get a chance to go to City Council and speak on the secondary enforcement in regards to the texting, and putting on makeup while driving. He asked if the Board of Police Commissioners would put something in writing for the deployment of law enforcement and the asking of scrutiny in matters like this.

He stated the major issue that distracts drivers is a parent who is trying to deal with non behaving children in the back seat. There needs to be some clarification.

Chairperson Ramirez stated the Board will be having a meeting and will share those thoughts.

R. Scott stated there needs to be more discussion with City Council about these kinds of matters.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/rb